

Remarks

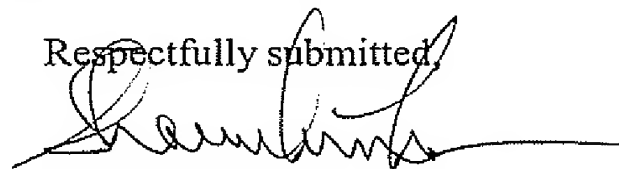
Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action dated July 17, 2006 (hereinafter, "Office Action"). Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 52 and 53 are allowed. Moreover, Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's efforts to place the present application in condition for allowance as evidenced by the proposed Examiner's Amendment (now withdrawn) and the telephone interviews¹ with the Applicants' representative, Shawna Cannon Lemon, to discuss the same.

In the present Office Action, Claims 40, 43, 45-47, 49, 52, 53, 56-65 and are pending in the application. Of these, Claims 40, 43, 45-47, 49, 56-65, 69 and 70 stand rejected. As noted above, Claims 52 and 53 are allowed.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled, without prejudice, Claims 40, 43, 45-47, 49, 56-65, 69 and 70. Applicants have added new Claims 71-73. Claims 71-73 depend from allowed Claim 52, are supported by the specification and figures, and are not believed to present any new subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the new claims and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner have any concerns regarding the new claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' representative to discuss the Examiner's concerns. In any event, the Examiner is encouraged to direct any questions regarding the foregoing to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 9, 2006 using the EFS:

Signature: Sarah Abraham
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate: Sarah Abraham

Date: August 9, 2006

¹ July 6, 2006; July 7, 2006 and July 10, 2006.